



From the
Dean of Academic Services
and the

Dean of Technical/Occupational Services

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A REMINDER RE:
INSTRUCTOR-AUTHORED TEXTBOOKS

In August 1987, the Alabama State Ethics Commission issued Advisory Opinion No. 1130 on potential conflict of interest when an instructor writes a textbook, lab manual, etc. which is used in his (or her) classes.

Although the Advisory Opinion was issued some years ago, it is still in force. From time to time, questions arise here at Shelton about instructors writing textbooks; so it seems worthwhile to review this Ethics Commission opinion in the Newsletter.

The opinion pertains to faculty who write textbooks (or other instructional material) on their own time, obtain copyrights and receive a royalty from the sale of their publications.

The gist of the opinion is as follows: "there is no violation of the Alabama Ethics Law so long as the professor or instructor plays no part in the decision as to whether his or her students will be required to purchase the publication authored by the individual professor or instructor."

The opinion goes on to say that the Ethics Commission believes that an instructor "would be within the perimeters of the Alabama Ethics law in using his/her publication in his/her classroom if the appropriate administrative official or textbook committee were fully aware of his/her personal interest in the publication and received appropriate approval from either the

administrative official or textbook committee responsible for the final decision as to the use of these materials. If this is done, then a possible conflict of interests is eliminated."

"In summary, the Alabama Ethics law will not interfere in any way with . . . instructors writing . . . workbooks, textbooks, laboratory manuals, etc., so long as they play no part in the selection of these publications for use by their own students."

PERFORMANCE OF
SHELTON STATE STUDENTS AT
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Recently, the Office of Planning and Analysis at Auburn University (AU) provided Shelton State Community College (SSCC) with data summarizing the academic performance of SSCC students who transfer to AU. This data was a part of the aggregate data on junior college transfers which AU routinely provides to two-year colleges.

It is hoped that you can, and will, use this information to improve instruction.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

The first SSCC students entered AU during the 1980-81 academic year. Through the fall quarter 1990, a total of sixty-five (65) SSCC students have transferred to Auburn. In comparison to other Alabama two-year institutions, SSCC is not a significant source of students for AU. Only three other institutions have provided AU fewer transfer students than SSCC.



Auburn Transfers (continued):

AU SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Sciences and Math was the AU academic college/school entered most frequently by SSCC transfers. Sixteen (16, 25%) of SSCC students entered that AU college/school. Ten (10, 15%) SSCC students entered the college/school of liberal arts; nine (9) entered the college/school of agriculture; eight (8) entered the college/school of business; five (5) entered the college/school of education; four (4) entered the college/school of engineering; four (4) entered the college/school of human science; three (3) entered the college/school of architecture; three (3) entered the college/school of forestry; two (2) entered the college/school of pharmacy; and one (1) entered the college/school of nursing.

The choices of AU college/school by SSCC is a bit different than that of the total group of two-year transfers. The AU college/school entered most frequently by the total group of two-year transfers was the college/school of education, followed by the college/school of liberal arts, and then by the college/school of business. The college/school of sciences and math, the first choice for SSCC students, ranked fifth among the college/schools chosen by the total group of two-year transfers.

QUARTERS ATTENDED AND HOURS TAKEN

The following figures represent the average (mean) for the sixty-five (65) SSCC who transferred to AU during the period under study.

SSCC students who transferred to AU were enrolled at SSCC for 5.3 quarters and took 61.7 hours at SSCC. After transfer to AU, these

students remained enrolled at AU for 5.6 quarters and took 83.9 hours at AU.

Auburn also has broken out the group of students entering Auburn in 1985-86 and beyond. In that group, SSCC had forty-one (41) students. These SSCC students were enrolled at SSCC for 5.7 quarters and took 65.6 hours at SSCC. After transfer to AU, these students remained enrolled 5.1 quarters and took 77.2 hours at AU.

So, the most recent SSCC/AU transfer students have remained at SSCC a bit longer.

By way of comparison, SSCC students stayed at their native institution for fewer quarters and took fewer hours than the group of two-year transfers as a whole. The total group stayed at the native institution 5.8 quarters and took 80.9 hours. They also stayed longer (6.9 quarters) and took more hours (103.5) while at Auburn.

The picture is different for those students who have transferred since 1985-86. The total group of transfers did stay longer (6.0 quarters) and take more hours (80.2) at the native institution than did SSCC students. Once at Auburn, however, SSCC students stayed longer and took more hours than the total transfer group.

GRADUATION RATE

Of the SSCC students (65) who have transferred to Auburn, nineteen (19)--29 per cent--have graduated. This rate of graduation is lower than for the total group of junior college transfers to Auburn. The graduation rate for junior college transfers was 55 per cent.

Twenty-eight--43 per cent--of the SSCC students who transferred to Auburn did not graduate and are no



Auburn Transfers (continued):

longer enrolled at AU. Eighteen--28 per cent--of the SSCC students who transferred to Auburn were still enrolled at Auburn when the transfer data was compiled.

Of the forty-one (41) SSCC students who transferred to Auburn since 1985, nine (9)--22 per cent--have graduated. This rate of graduation compares more favorably with the graduation rate for the total junior college transfers since 1985. The rate of graduation for the total junior college transfers since 1985 was 26 per cent.

Fourteen--34 per cent--of the SSCC students who have transferred to Auburn since 1985 have not graduated and are no longer enrolled. Eighteen--44 per cent--of this group were enrolled at Auburn when the transfer data was compiled.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The sixty-five (65) SSCC students who transferred to Auburn had a mean GPA at SSCC of 2.79. This group experienced transfer shock. Their GPA at the end of their first quarter at Auburn was 2.24. For SSCC students, however, the gap between final junior college GPA and first-quarter GPA at Auburn was less than for the total group of junior college transfers. The drop in GPA for total junior college transfers was .76; the drop for SSCC transfers was .55.

The mean GPA earned by SSCC students at Auburn was 2.37. This was lower than the mean GPA--2.46--earned by the total junior college transfer group.

Those SSCC students who graduated from Auburn had a first quarter GPA of 2.39 and an overall mean GPA of

2.61. The entering GPA was higher than the entering GPA--2.37--for all junior college transfers who graduated. The overall GPA earned at Auburn by SSCC students who graduated was very close to the mean GPA--2.62--of all junior college transfers who graduated.

The eighteen SSCC students currently enrolled at Auburn had a first quarter GPA of 2.62 and an overall mean GPA of 2.46. This compares very favorably with the all junior college transfers still enrolled at Auburn. Their first quarter GPA was 2.33 and have earned a mean GPA of 2.44.

The picture from those forty-one (41) SSCC students who have transferred to Auburn since 1985 is mixed but, on the whole, quite positive. This group of SSCC students had a lower junior college GPA than the total group of junior college transfers (2.71 v. 2.94) but recorded a higher first quarter mean GPA at Auburn (2.30 v. 2.24). The mean GPA earned by SSCC students, however, was below the mean GPA earned by the total group of junior college transfers (2.38 v. 2.47).

The eighteen (18) SSCC students currently enrolled at Auburn had a junior college GPA of 2.85 (2.97 for the total group of currently enrolled junior college transfers); a first quarter GPA of 2.62 (2.35 for the total group of currently enrolled junior college transfers); and a mean GPA of 2.46 (2.46 for the total group of currently enrolled junior college transfers).

The data from Auburn clearly reveals that the most negative numbers are derived from those students who have discontinued their enrollment at Auburn. That group had less than a 2.0 in their first quarter of enrollment and had a mean GPA of



Auburn Transfers (continued):

less than a 2.0. Even the SSCC group that entered since 1985 showed the same pattern. These students left SSCC with mean GPAs much like the group as a whole (2.66 and 2.56 respectively). This is a matter of some concern because this group--the discontinued group--is the largest category of SSCC transfers to Auburn.

A final table in the Auburn report compares junior college transfers in a different time-frames. It divides transfers into three groups, 1966-1974, 1974-1982, 1982-1990. Shelton had no students in the first group, nine (9) in the second, and fifty-six (56) in the third. Looking only at the third group, SSCC students compare favorably with the total group of junior college transfers. Shelton State students had a lower mean GPA at the junior college than the total group of junior college transfers (2.78 compared to 2.95). Nonetheless, Shelton State students earned a higher mean GPA at Auburn in their first quarter (2.33 compared to 2.18). The overall mean GPA of both groups was about the same (2.41 for SSCC compared to 2.46 for the total group of junior college transfers). Only in the rate of graduation does a negative comparison occur. The total group of junior college transfers had a graduation rate of 38.10%. The SSCC graduation rate was 28.57%.

CONCLUSIONS RE:
INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

First, there is much that this data does not tell us. Most important, we can not compare SSCC students with students who began their college education at Auburn. Still, there is much in this data to indicate that Shelton State is effectively preparing its students

for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Clearly, there is work to be done, however. We need to learn more about that large group of "discontinued" Shelton State transfers to Auburn. As we learn more about them, and about our success stories as well, we can better develop ways to enhance our effectiveness for those students who aim toward a baccalaureate.

ROGERS SELECTED
AS CHAMBER AMBASSADOR

Rick Rogers, Personnel Director, of Shelton State Community College has been selected as one of the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors for 1992. The Ambassadors are the Chamber's customer service representatives, providing a direct, personal link to the members. Ambassadors also serve as official hosts of Chamber functions and are responsible for distribution of new member materials and the Chamber's Membership Directory & Buyer's Guide.

Rogers is a member of the Ambassador Team named "The Electrifiers." Apropos--we have always found him a somewhat shocking fellow. Rogers' team is doing well; The Electrifiers were selected as the Ambassador Team of the Month for March.

ENTERPRISE SEEKS
ART INSTRUCTOR

Enterprise State Junior College has announced a vacancy on its faculty for an art instructor. The application deadline is May 1, 1992. Those interested should contact Dr. Tommy Guthrie, Dean of the College, Enterprise State Junior College, P.O. Drawer 1300, Enterprise, AL 36331.

REMEMBER: 1991-92 Professional Development Plan Final Reports and 1992-93 Professional Development Plans.